

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims presented in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for the treatment of waste water comprising an organic nutrient, wherein the waste water is brought into contact with microorganisms-comprising sludge particles, an oxygen-comprising gas is fed to the sludge particles, and the method further comprises the settling of the sludge particles and the discharge of ~~organism~~ organic nutrient-depleted waste water, characterised in that

- in a first step the waste water is fed to sludge granules, under anaerobic ~~oxyugen-~~ ~~depleted~~ conditions;
- after the supply of the waste water to be treated an oxygen-comprising gas is introduced in a second step, with the granules being in a fluidised condition; and
- in a third step, a settling step, the sludge granules are allowed to settle.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the waste water is introduced to a bed of sludge granules in an amount of 50 to 110%, ~~preferably 80 to 105%~~ ~~and most preferably 90 to 100%~~ of the void volume of the bed.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the introduction of the waste water is followed by an interval before commencing the second step.

9. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 8, characterised in that the interval is sufficiently long for the removal of at least 50%, ~~preferably at least 75% and most preferably at least 90%~~ of the organic nutrient from the waste water.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the selection takes place in the third step, wherein the ~~sludge~~ sludge granules that settle more slowly are discharged from the reactor and ~~sludge~~ sludge granules that settle more quickly remain in the reactor.

11. (New) A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the waste water is introduced to a bed of sludge granules in an amount of 80 to 105% of the void volume of the bed.

12. (New) A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the waste water is introduced to a bed of sludge granules in an amount of 90 to 100% of the void volume of the bed.

13. (New) A method according to claim 8, characterised in that the interval is sufficiently long for the removal of at least 75% of the organic nutrient from the waste water.

14. (New) A method according to claim 8, characterised in that the interval is sufficiently long for the removal of at least 90% of the organic nutrient from the waste water.